



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The beginning of summer-related activity such as farming, construction, parks maintenance, road repairs, and recreation boosted employment in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) by 610 individuals and dropped the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from 6.3 percent in April 2002 to 5.1 percent in May 2002. The current unemployment rate dropped four-tenths of a percentage point below the May 2001 rate of 5.5 percent.

The Pocatello MSA's unemployment rate remained one-tenth of a percentage point above the Idaho rate of 5.0 percent and fell seven-tenths of a percentage point below the U.S. rate of 5.8 percent.

Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased eight-tenths of a percentage point, from 32,950 in April 2002 to 33,200 in May 2002, and added 250 jobs in the area. Increased jobs occurred mainly in *Construction* (90), *Retail Trade* (70), *Services* (90), and *Government Administration* (80). Normal seasonal activity drove job creation in the area.

Effects of the national recession caused *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* to fall from 33,920 in May 2001 to 33,200 in May 2002. *Construction*, *Manufacturing*, *Wholesale Trade*, and *Retail Trade* led job losses in the Pocatello MSA over the year. Job losses can be attributed to several factors, including the completion of two major construction projects in 2001, a lack of new major construction projects, increased inventories and decreased orders, international trade issues, decreased travel, and other tourism related activities.

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### 2001 Covered Employment

The Idaho Department of Labor recently released final covered employment numbers for 2001. Covered em-

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,980	40,830	40,690	0.4	0.7
Unemployment	2,100	2,561	2,240	-18.0	-6.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	6.3	5.5		
Total Employment	38,880	38,270	38,450	1.6	1.1
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,920	41,150	41,380	-0.6	-1.1
Unemployment	2,040	2,580	2,360	-20.9	-13.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	6.3	5.7		
Total Employment	38,590	38,570	39,020	0.1	-1.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	33,200	32,950	33,920	0.8	-2.1
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,380	4,280	4,780	2.3	-8.4
Mining & Construction	1,720	1,630	1,830	5.5	-6.0
Manufacturing	2,660	2,650	2,950	0.4	-9.8
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	28,820	28,670	29,150	0.5	-1.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,790	1,790	1,770	0.0	1.1
Wholesale Trade	1,320	1,390	1,430	-5.0	-7.7
Retail Trade	6,570	6,500	6,930	1.1	-5.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,760	1,740	1,680	1.1	4.8
Services	8,210	8,120	8,290	1.1	-1.0
Government Administration	3,540	3,460	3,460	2.3	2.3
Government Education	5,630	5,670	5,590	-0.7	0.7

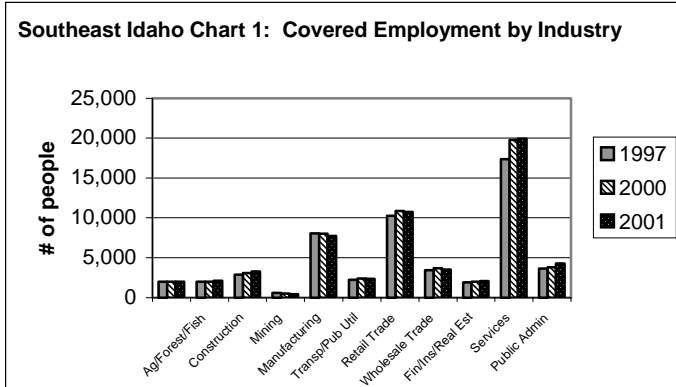
\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

ployment is the number of workers, by industry, whose employers cover their workers under Idaho's Unemployment Insurance Laws. This includes most people who work for wages.

*Southeast Idaho Chart 1: Covered Employment by Industry* (see page 18), compares 2001 covered employment by industry with numbers from one year ago and five years ago. Despite the national recession, Southeast Idaho's covered employment managed seven-tenths of a percentage point growth (382) in 2001 over 2000. Although the growth in 2001 is the smallest percentage growth in the past five years, it shows that Southeast Idaho's economy continued to move in a positive direction. *Public Administration* and *Construction* led industry growth. The gains in *Public Administration* actually occurred because of a classification change from *Services*. Tribal employment had been counted as *Private Employment* in the *Services* industry. Recently, that was changed and tribal employment is now listed as *Public Employment* in the *Services* industry. That change dropped *Services*' increase to less than 1.0 percent growth. *Construction* increased 7.1 percent over the year followed by *Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries* at 6.1 percent, and *Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate* at 3.4 percent. Low interest rates and consumer spending spurred the growth of 2001.

**Southeast Idaho Chart 1: Covered Employment by Industry**



From 1997, average covered employment grew 7.8 percent (4,079) to 56,500. Over the past five years, the highest growth rate was 2.8 percent in 1998 when average covered employment grew by 1,492. The area experienced large increases in every industry over the five-year period. *Construction* (14.1 percent), *Services* (14.6 percent), and *Public Administration* (17.3 percent) had the highest increases because of several commercial construction projects, increased business, social, and health care services, and the reclassification of jobs from *Services* to *Public Administration* that occurred between 2000 and 2001.

Job losses that occurred because of the Astaris closure did not affect covered employment in 2001 because the closure occurred at the end of December. During the remainder of 2002, if no other major employers close or have a major downsizing, if high tech manufacturing continues to add jobs, and if retail trade begins to rebuild its numbers, the area can expect growth to increase from under 1.0 percent to 1.5 percent.

*Southeast Idaho Chart 2, Covered Employment by County* compares 2001 growth by county with numbers from one year ago and five years ago. From 2000 to 2001, Caribou and Franklin Counties led employment growth rates in the seven-county Southeast Idaho area. Caribou County increased 4.9 percent and Franklin County increased 4.6 percent. In Caribou County, covered employment increased because of

construction activity at Agrium. The increase of construction workers in the county also boosted employment in *Services*. The construction of Bear River Printing at Preston's Industrial Park boosted employment in *Construction* and *Manufacturing*. Bear Lake and Power Counties lost covered employment over the year. Bear Lake County dropped 1.0 percent from 2000 to 2001, and most declines occurred in *Construction* and *Manufacturing*. Covered employment in Power County declined 4.6 percent. Most declines occurred in *Manufacturing*.

From 1997 to 2001, Franklin, Bannock, and Oneida Counties led employment growth rates. Franklin County's average covered employment grew 14.9 percent (333), Bannock County followed with 9.9 percent growth (2,787), and Oneida County with 9.4 percent growth (77). Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bingham Counties experienced moderate growth over the five-year period. Power County, which is heavily dependent on agriculture and has very little diversification, was the only county to experience decreased covered employment since 1997. Power County's primary industry, *Manufacturing*, has slowly declined since 1997.

Low interest rates, consumer spending, and new and expanding businesses throughout most of Southeast Idaho led to increased employment opportunities over the past five years. However the national recession and international trade led to business closures and downsizing, which lowered employment growth and even caused employment declines in some areas in 2001.

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**Southeast Idaho Chart 2: Covered Employment by County**

